

EGPA 25969

DISPATCH

DATE 2007

HEADQUARTERS FILE NO.

TO
INFO

Chief, SR
EE, COS

74-6-66/1

FROM

Chief of Base, Frankfurt

DATE

14 April 1959

SUBJECT

REDWOOD/AEROOT

RE: "23" -- (CHECK "X" ONE)

MARKED FOR INDEXING

X NO INDEXING REQUIRED

ACTION REQUIRED

See paragraph 9 below

INDEXING CAN BE JUDGED
BY QUALIFIED HQ. DESK ONLY

REFERENCE(S)

EGFW 8518, 25 March 1959

1. The following comments are offered in connection with your decision to recommend that project AEROOT be disapproved.
2. It is not believed that operational opportunities in Estonian operations vary in direct proportion to the number of Estonian emigres residing in West Germany. It is suggested that ethnic Germans or Baltic Germans (who are not considered "Estonian emigres") can be used effectively in operations aimed at gathering intelligence within the Estonian SSR.
3. Headquarters statement that the RIS and the Germans are interested in emigres is noted. This interest exists, of course, for the same reason KUBARK has an interest in these people -- they have a tie to a part of the Soviet Union. However, this thought could, perhaps, be extended a bit more -- the RIS and the Germans are interested in practically anyone who has a connection with the Soviet Union, either a traveller, a correspondent, a business man, etc. These groups would then embrace just about all the people KUBARK is using in its operations against the USSR. We therefore find it difficult to accept the reasoning that KUBARK cannot effectively and securely use people in its operations who are of general interest to another intelligence service -- friendly or unfriendly.
4. It is true that AEROOT 5 is known to the Germans as an AIS agent and that he had been targeted for recruitment by the RIS. However, the primary purpose for which AEROOT 5 is used -- uncovering and initially developing leads -- is all done under natural cover. (It should be noted that AEROOT 5 does not participate in the recruitment, training, and briefing of any action agents.) His activities so far in this field have been productive and, we hope, secure.
5. During the six months following Headquarters original proposal to terminate AEROOT 5, we have concentrated on developing leads which would result in the establishment of a recruited agent within the Estonian SSR or in the travel of someone from the West to the USSR or from the USSR to the West. This effort has not, of course, resulted in any significant intelligence production because none of the leads found and being developed have yet culminated in an operational mission. This normally requires more than six months.
6. Your attention is invited to the following Estonian leads now under development. The existence of these leads leads us to believe that there is an operational potential in Estonian REDSKIN operations in West Germany. It is possible that all of the leads below will be developed into successful missions to the Estonian SSR; it is possible that none of them will; more realistically, two or three possibly will. The questions now are: Should we continue developing these Estonian leads? Should we continue searching for new leads such as those below? If the answer is affirmative to any one of the above questions, then it follows that approval of Project AEROOT should be recommended. If the answer to both of the above questions is negative, then there can be no doubt that disapproval of Project AEROOT should be recommended!
7. The leads in question are:
 - a. EGPA 25422, 10 March 1959. A case involving two Estonians who are residing in Poland and who can visit the Estonian SSR. An attempt may be made to recruit one or both of these people during a projected visit to West Germany.

FORM 53b
10-57
(40)

USE PREVIOUS EDITION.
REPLACES FORMS
51-20, 51-20A AND 51-20
WHICH ARE OBSOLETE.

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X CONTINUED

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- b. EGFW 8356, 11 February 1959. A German citizen born in Estonia who has been recruited to perform a REDSKIN mission during a visit to the Estonian SSR.
- c. EGFA 25370, 24 February 1959. A REDSKIN lead turned over to Vienna Station.
- d. EGFA 24290, 19 November 1958. A case involving a resident of the Estonian SSR who may visit a relative residing in West Germany.
- e. EGFA 24170, 14 November 1958. A German citizen of Estonian origin now representing a West German newspaper in Moscow.
- f. EGFA 24360, 25 November 1958. Four cases involving planned travel between the Estonian SSR and West Germany.

8. In the event that financial considerations are an important factor in the approval of project AEROOT, there exists the possibility, of course, of approving the project for a lesser amount than has been requested in the Field Project Outline. For one, we could not raise any objection to termination of AENEON 27 and exclusion of his salary (and a proportionate amount of other expenses) from the AEROOT budget. Although we consider a safehouse necessary for effective and secure operational activities under Project AEROOT, we can always sacrifice some security and convenience and, reluctantly, agree to exclusion of money for this purpose from the budget.

9. Consideration of the above comments would be appreciated, as would early advice as to Headquarters' decision concerning the future of Project AEROOT and AEROOT 5.

APPROVED: 

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*1 copy destroyed
18 December 1959*

74-6-666/1